THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. *SOMU):* (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make reservations in the Defence Services for SCs/STs/OBCs Recruitment to the Defence Services is open to all Indian nationals irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion. The endeavour has been to provide free and equal opportunity fo all sections of the population to join the Defence Forces and render service in accordance with the ideals of secularism, democracy and social justice.

In order to maintain highest standards of operational efficiency, appointments and selections to the Defence Services have been made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of caste, community, religion, area or class is provided.

Special Courts to deal with atrocities on SCs/STs and other weaker sections

1665. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special court has been set up anywhere in the country in the last five years to take up serious cases of atrocities committed on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other weaker sections; and.

(b) if so, the number of courts set up and the progress in the trial of cases before them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Special Courts have been specified or separately established in most districts of the country, except in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, for trying cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the SCs and STs (Prevantion of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Reports received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations so far indicate tha around 3167 cases were disposed of b the courts in 1994 and that around 2470 cases were pending with them as at th end of that year.

Payment of Salaries to D.T.C. Staff

1666. SHRI MOHINDAR SING KAYLAN: Will the Minister c SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased t state:

(a) whether Government are awar that payment of salaries and other perk (arrears of bonus, D.A. and IR) to th workers of DTC have not been made i time since 1992;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry on non-payment o dues to the DTC workers by the management;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) DTC ha been incurring heavy losses for the last s mayyears and its internal resources an not sufficient to liquidate its committee liabilities in time. As a result, there ha been some delay in disbursing salaries t the employees. However, all th employees of DTC have been paid thei salary upto the Month of June, 1996 bu due to paucity of .funds, the employee have not been paid arrears of bonus D.A. and interim relief. The Governmen has taken various measures to provid sufficient funds to DTC depending upo the availability of budgetary resources t enable them for timely disbursement o salaries to its employees and DTC is als making all out efforts to generate mon funds to enable it to liquidate it committed liabilities.